

IN THE CLAIMS:

110. (cancelled)

111. (new) A method for loading a program data for a graphical user interface for operation or for diagnosis of a printer or copier, comprising the steps of:

transferring specification data stored in a first storage region of an internal control unit of the printer or copier from said internal control unit over a network to an external operating unit for the printer or copier which is external to the printer or copier with aid of a browser program module of the external operating unit and executed by the external operating unit, said external operating unit also having a browser module cache and an archive cache, the specification data containing at least a specification about at least one necessary program module necessary for generation of operating or diagnosis functions for said printer or copier;

with help of the external operating unit, checking whether program data that contains said necessary program module are contained in said archive cache of the external operating unit in which program data are stored and read out independent of a network address of the printer or copier, and wherein a version state of the necessary program module stored as program data in said archive cache is compared with a desired version state of the necessary program module; and

if the program data in the archive cache does not contain said necessary program module of the desired version state, transferring program data which contain said necessary program module of the desired version state from a further storage region of said internal control unit to the external operating unit and storing the program data with said necessary program module of the desired version state in the archive cache of the external operating unit; and

executing instructions of said necessary program module by the external operating unit.

112. (new) A method according to claim 111 wherein the external operating unit and also a service and maintenance computer as another external operating unit are connected with said internal control unit of said printer or copier via respective data connections.

113. (new) A method according to claim 111 wherein the program data stored in the archive cache are not automatically deleted, dependent on settings in the browser program module.

114. (new) A method according to claim 111 wherein program data of a plurality of program modules are contained in the archive cache of the external operating unit, said program data being loaded and executed by the external operating unit independent of the network address of the printer or copier.

115. (new) A method according to claim 111 wherein the archive cache is at least part of a storage region of a fixed disk storage or of an exchangeable data medium.

116. (new) A method according to claim 111 wherein said specification data contain at least a printer or copier type or an output state of the printer or copier.

117. (new) A method according to claim 111 wherein a plurality of program modules are stored in the archive cache, a program module being selected with aid of the specification data.

118. (new) A method according to claim 111 wherein the specification data contain a program module with whose execution further specification data and still further specification data are loaded, whereby the specification data contain a program module for communication control between the internal control unit and the

external operating unit, and a program module for provision of operating for diagnosis functions, and wherein the specification data are contained in at least one file.

119. (new) A method according to claim 118 wherein the specification data or said program data contain a JAVA applet or an ActiveX program element.

120. (new) A method according to claim 111 wherein the internal control unit is connected with a service and maintenance computer external to the printer or copier over a remote data transfer connection.

121. (new) A method according to claim 120 wherein the remote data transfer connection comprises a point-to-point connection.

122. (new) A method according to claim 111 wherein the specification data or the program data contain a primary loaded program, printer-specific information, program modules for an RMI communication, program modules for implementation of an authentication, program modules for generation of a graphical user interface, program modules for access to a data bank of the printer or copier, program modules for a diagnosis of a paper input unit, a paper path controller, a paper output unit, or a printing unit, and program modules for access to an event registration or program modules for access to an error storage.

123. (new) A method according to claim 111 wherein the specification data or the program data contain Java applications that are transferred with aid of a Java Web Start Technology in the external operating unit and executed by the external operating unit.

124. (new) A method according to claim 111 wherein the program data contain program elements for adjustment of parameters, counter values, counter

limit values, voltage levels to be set, status information as well as program elements for implementation of light barrier routines, motor test routines, and valve routines.

125. (new) A method according to claim 111 wherein said archive cache comprises a CD-ROM storage in which a plurality of program data for different printers is stored independent of network address of printers.